Green Horse Project Forest Plan Consistency

Review of the Forest Plan management direction that is applicable to the Green Horse project has shown that the project is consistent with the Forest Plan, as shown below (USDA Forest Service, 1987).

A. Forest Plan Standards

The following standards apply to National Forest land administered by the Nez Perce National Forest. They are intended to supplement, not replace, the National and Regional policies, standards, and guidelines found in Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks and the Northern Regional Guide.

Standard	Project Consistency
Recreation	
2. Provide for appropriate access based on an evaluation of user needs and a transportation analysis.	A road by road analysis was conducted for the project area to determine the road actions and location of roads needed for the Green Horse Project (document 14-001).
4. Create additional opportunities for winter recreation where user needs indicate.	Public meetings and scoping did not identify a need for additional winter recreation opportunities. Mitigation AM-1 addresses the need to maintain existing snowmobile related access and groomed winter snowmobile routes (see proposed action in the EA).
6. Mitigate the physical impacts of increased dispersed recreation use. Rehabilitation efforts will be based on resource damage to soils, water, and vegetation. Efforts may include closing the site for the short or long term, revegetation by seed or plants, signing, visitor contact, and printed material.	Field reviews and GIS mapping layers identified 7 dispersed recreation campsites in the project area. Inclusion of a new mitigation measure, AM-3, was included to ensure these sites were retained for use after project completion. Temp roads are not open for public use and will be fully obliterated upon project completion to discourage unapproved use.
Visual Resources	
1. Meet the adopted visual quality objectives (VQOs) in all land-disturbing activities over time. Specific VQOs have been recommended for all acres of the Forest and are displayed on maps in the planning records. Recommended VQOs will be reviewed, updated as necessary, and adopted during project planning. Adopted VQOs provide standards for all landscape-altering	All landscape-altering activities would meet adopted Forest Plan Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs). Duration of visual impacts should meet the guidelines outlined for each VQO in Agriculture Handbook No. 462-Chapter 2. The project would comply with Forest Plan forest-wide standards for visual resources in the Nez Perce National Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service 1987a) (document 33-003). Management Area 17 is located to the

activities. Project planning will detail how the VQOs will be met. Reasonable time will be allowed to meet VQOs following land-disturbing activities. Retention and partial retention VQOs will be achieved along the Selway, South Fork Clearwater, and Salmon Rivers on the Forest. Retention will be achieved in the foreground area around developed recreation sites, with partial retention in the middle and background views. Retention and partial retention will also be achieved along selected trails and at wilderness portals.	American River – Selway Road 443 and the Falls Creek II Road 9716. Proposed fuel break harvest would meet the VQO of Partial Retention for the areas adjacent to the roadway and meet the FP direction for MA 17.
Cultural Resources	
1. Survey all areas of potential land disturbance for cultural resources.	A cultural resource inventory of the proposed project has been completed. The findings of the inventory have been submitted to the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for review. Concurrence was received on December 15, 2020.
2. Sites will be evaluated and protected on a site-by-site basis unless larger areas such as historic or prehistoric districts are involved.	Sites within the area of potential effect (APE) have been evaluated for their NRHP eligibility. Mitigation measures have been developed to protect NRHP eligible sites.
3. Ensure that Forest actions are not detrimental to the protection and preservation of significant Native American religious and cultural sites.	There are no significant Native American religious or cultural sites within the project APE.
4. Protect and preserve National Register and National Register-eligible cultural resources.	Mitigation measures have been developed to protect National Register eligible cultural resources.
5. The Forest Service and the Tribe will undertake a process of consultation to protect cultural sites of prehistoric or present use. The Forest Service will notify the Tribe of all land disturbing activities This notification will occur at a stage when the Forest Service's plans are sufficiently definite that the Tribe will be able to judge the possible location and extent of impacts to cultural sites. Notification will also	The Nez Perce Tribe has been notified during quarterly staff meetings that occurred since April 24, 2019 of project activities.

include information of sufficient detail to allow the Tribe to determine if there may be potential adverse impacts to cultural sites. Notification will also be timed early enough in the decision-making process so that the Forest Service will be able to alter its plans based on the Tribe's comments and suggestions. The Forest Service will take into consideration the Tribe's comments in designing and locating land disturbing activities. The Forest Service will not necessarily follow the Tribe's suggestions for protection of cultural sites in every case, but the consultation process will involve an accommodation between the interests of the Forest Service and the Tribe. In cases where the Forest Service is unable to adopt the Tribe's suggestions, the Forest Service will notify the Tribe of its reasons for failing to do so. The Tribe may also propose that the Forest Service undertake certain rehabilitative measures for cultural sites of prehistoric or present use which are currently suffering degradation. The Forest Service will consider such suggestions in light of the treaty and appropriate laws. ~~Consult with the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee prior to implementing projects that have the potential to affect Nez Perce cultural rights and practices. *This text is no longer valid, see Amend #7 for replacement text*~~	
Wildlife and Fish	
1. Maintain viable populations of existing native and desirable non-native vertebrate wildlife species.	Viable populations continue to be maintained on the Forest. For species addressed in this analysis, viability is not a concern.
3. Monitor population levels of all Management Indicator Species on the Forest.	Periodic monitoring of indicator species occur at the forest and regional level. Monitoring at

These include bald eagle, grizzly bear, gray wolf, peregrine falcon, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, pileated woodpecker, goshawk, pine marten, fisher, westslope cutthroat trout, summer steelhead, and spring chinook. These species have been selected because (a) they are threatened and endangered; (b) they have special habitat needs that may be influenced significantly by planned management programs; (c) they are commonly hunted, fished, or trapped; (d) they are non-game species of special interest; or (e) their population changes are believed to indicate the effects of management activities on other species of selected major biological communities or on water quality. Population levels will be monitored and evaluated as described in the Forest Plan Monitoring Requirements (Chapter V of the Forest Plan).	the project level is not required. BMP and design feature implementation is designed to protect or minimally affect indicator or listed species.
4. Recognize fishing and hunting rights guaranteed the Nez Perce Tribe through fish and game habitat management.	The project would not affect the Tribe's ability to hunt and gather in the project area.
5. Coordinate with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to achieve mutual goals for fish and wildlife resources.	The Forest continues to work with the IDFG in managing wildlife species and their habitat. Continued involvement and annual meetings between agencies; and analysis for elk, moose, wolf and other species utilize IDFG reports.
6. Use "Guidelines for Evaluating and Managing Summer Elk Habitat in Northern Idaho" to manage for and to assess the attainment of summer elk habitat objectives in project evaluations (see Appendix B of the Forest Plan). These summer elk habitat areas are not identified on the management area maps, but are identified on larger scale maps on file in the planning records and are available at the Forest Supervisor's office and at each District Office. The use of these guidelines and the identification of the high, moderate, and low summer elk habitat objective areas are intended to identify and prioritize, for	The proposed action would increase openings within the Falls, Horse, Island, and Saddle elk analysis areas (EAAs) by three to 13%. The Green Horse Project is meeting the guidelines of Servheen et al. (1997) of at 50% elk habitat effectiveness (EHE) for these EAAs; the Island EAA is below the desired 75% EHE in the existing condition and the proposed action would not reduce the EHE level (see wildlife analysis in the EA).

management, important summer elk habitat. The high and moderate areas, in particular, will require a greater degree of coordination among timber harvest, access management, logging practices, and livestock. Specific methods of how to achieve the habitat effectiveness levels for each area will be determined during project planning. Changes in each category will be monitored and evaluated as described in the Forest Plan Monitoring Requirements (Chapter V of the Forest Plan).	
7. Provide management for minimum viable populations of old-growth and snag-dependent species by adhering to the standards stated in Appendix N.	This standard would be met, as units would retain snags as per Appendix N (document 11-004).
9. Coordinate the scheduling of land-disturbing activities with adjacent Districts to address cumulative effects over large areas in key wolf habitats.	Since the wolf has been removed from the ESA list and management was passed to state wildlife management agencies, the state controls the wolf population. The vegetation management provides forage for big game. As big game numbers increase, the wolf benefits from the increase in prey. Both the Green Horse and Limber Elk projects will increase big game forage for wolf prey.
10. Maintain or improve elk habitat at, or near, optimum levels by applying elk guidelines in key wolf areas outside wilderness.	The proposed action would increase openings within the Falls, Horse, Island, and Saddle elk analysis areas (EAAs) by three to 13%. The Green Horse Project is meeting the guidelines of Servheen et al. (1997) of at 50% elk habitat effectiveness (EHE) for three of the EAAs; the Island EAA is below the desired 75% EHE in the existing condition and the proposed action would not reduce the EHE level (see wildlife analysis in the EA).
11. Design timber harvest activities in moderate and high elk objective areas, when compatible with established fish/ water quality objectives and economics, so that units at the far end of the road will be cut first.	Units at the end of roads in winter range would be the first harvested when compatible with fish/ water quality objectives and economics.
12. Avoid logging activity on traditional big game calving/ fawning or nursery areas from May 15 through June 15. Identify these areas during the biological evaluations for	Mitigation measures would restrict activities during the winter and spring seasons, in order to reduce effects on big game during periods of low forage availability and the calving

individual projects.	season for units 18, 19, and 20.
19. Restore presently degraded fish habitat to meet the fish/ water quality objectives established in this Forest Plan (see Appendix A of the Forest Plan).	The project will allow for improvement in fish/ water quality objectives through RHCA retention and cross drain culvert installations on roads. Both actions will minimize sediment delivery to fish habitat.
20. Use the "Guide for Predicting Salmonid Response to Sediment Yields in the Idaho Batholith Watersheds" to evaluate the attainment of fish habitat objectives.	NEZSED and FISHSED were used where data was available.
21. Meet established fishery/ water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.	Water quality objectives would be met in all but Island Creek which exceeds its objective due to the Wash Fire (2015). Roadside fuel treatments would not affect the water quality objective due RHCA retention and the limited number of roadside acres treated (document 11-004).
22. Schedule fishery habitat and watershed improvements in those streams where the existing fishery habitat potential is below the stated objective. Complete an analysis, during fiscal year 1988, that will provide more details on: (a) the problems with each stream that is currently below the stated objective; (b) the type of habitat or watershed improvement that is needed in each stream; and (c) which streams will receive improvements first.	No fish habitat restoration activities are planned in Island Creek which is below objective due to the 2015 Wash Fire. Previous road decommissioning (2.2 miles) was conducted to reduce sediment delivery from roads. There are few other restoration opportunities available in Island Creek. The remaining project area watersheds meet their objectives.
Timber	
1. Require silvicultural examination and prescriptions before any vegetative manipulation takes place on forested lands. Final determination of the silvicultural system for areas to be harvested will be made by a certified silviculturist after an on-the-ground, site-specific analysis.	Site-specific silvicultural prescriptions will be written for each harvest unit. Prescriptions will be reviewed and signed by a certified Silviculturist.
2. Clearcutting will not occur adjacent to previously harvested areas that are still considered openings. The location and dispersal of harvest units will take into consideration short and long-range management objectives for the area. A harvested area will no longer be considered an opening for timber management purposes	Clearcutting will not occur adjacent to previously harvested stands that are still considered openings.

when: (a) stocking levels are adequate to meet desired future stand conditions as outlined in the Nez Perce National Forest Stocking Guides and in the timber management prescriptions; and (b) average tree height is at least 2-1/ 2 feet. For wildlife and watershed purposes, a harvested area will no longer be considered an opening when the total woody vegetation is adequately stocked and at least 15 feet high. Exceptions to this standard will be based on the objectives of the specific management area.	
3. Permit timber harvest on lands classified as "unsuitable" for timber management to accomplish multiple-use objectives other than timber production. Examples include, but are not limited to, timber removal in right-of-way clearings, research, public safety, improvement of administrative sites, wildlife needs, removal of volume lost through catastrophic mortality, Christmas tree cutting, firewood cutting, or control of insect and disease epidemics that threaten adjacent suitable or non-National Forest lands.	Some harvest will occur on lands classified as "unsuitable" to meet other multiple-use objectives; public safety, wildlife needs, volume lost and/ or control of insect and disease.
Water	
1. Apply State water quality standards and "Best Management Practices" to land-disturbing activities to ensure State water quality standards are met or exceeded. In Idaho, "Best Management Practices," as defined by State regulation or agreement between the State and Forest Service, include the "Idaho Forest Practices Rules," "Best Management Practices for Road Activities," and "Rules and Regulations and Minimum Standards For Stream Channel Alterations." These documents are appended to, and are part of, this Forest Plan and are available upon request (see Appendix L). In the absence of established "Best Management Practices," activities will be conducted in a manner that demonstrates a knowledgeable and reasonable effort to minimize adverse water quality impacts.	Project activities will comply with design features, BMPs, and mitigation criteria to ensure compliance with Forest Plan Water Quality Criteria and relevant BMPs. The project implements BMPs to minimize or prevent sediment delivery to streams including RCHA retention and cross drain culvert additions to roads near stream crossings (document 11-004).

2. Use the "Guide for Predicting Sediment Yields from Forested Watersheds" and "Forest Hydrology, Part II--Hydrologic Effects of Vegetation Manipulation" to compare alternative effects on sediment and water yields.	Project analysis will include comply with Forest Plan methodology to assess potential sedimentation and assess predicted changes in water yield. Modelling has been conducted using ECA (water yield) and NEZSED (sediment yield).
3. Evaluate site-specific water quality effects as part of project planning. Design control measures to ensure that projects will meet Forest water quality goals; projects that will not meet State water quality standards shall be redesigned, rescheduled, or dropped.	Project activities will comply with design features, BMPs, and mitigation criteria to ensure compliance with Forest Plan Water Quality Criteria and relevant BMPs. The project implements BMPs to minimize or prevent sediment delivery to streams including RCHA retention and cross drain culvert additions in roads near stream crossings (document 11-004).
4. Perform a watershed cumulative effects feasibility analysis of projects involving significant vegetation removal, prior to including them on implementation schedules, to ensure that the project, considered with other activities, will not increase water yields or sediment beyond acceptable limits. Such analysis shall identify any opportunities for mitigating adverse effects on water-related beneficial uses, including capital investments for fish habitat or watershed improvement.	Modelling has been conducted using ECA (water yield) and NEZSED (sediment yield). Project activities would not exceed acceptable limits. Previous cumulative effects analyses were used during the planning stages of the project to understand how this project may impact existing condition.
8. Meet established fishery/ water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.	The project would meet objectives for all prescription watersheds except for Island Creek which does not meet its objective as a result of the 2015 Wash Fire. Project activities will comply with design features, BMPs, and mitigation criteria to ensure compliance with Forest Plan Water Quality Criteria and relevant BMPs (document 11-004).
Soils	
1. Evaluate the potential for soil displacement, compaction, puddling, mass wasting, and surface soil erosion for all ground-disturbing activities.	Potentials for soil displacement, compaction, puddling, mass wasting, and surface soil erosion have been evaluated through spatial analysis and targeted Detrimental Soil Disturbance (DSD) field surveys.
2. A minimum of 80 percent of an activity area shall not be detrimentally compacted, displaced, or puddled upon completion of activities. This direction does not apply to	The proposed activities are not expected to elevate DSD above the 20 percent standard following the completion of all project activities. 2 project units (unit 02A and unit

permanent recreation facilities and other permanent facilities such as system roads.	03A) are projected to have DSD exceeding 20%; however, reuse and subsequent scarification of legacy skid trails in these units is expected to lower the cumulative DSD below 20% (See proposed action in the EA).
3. Maintain sufficient ground cover to minimize rill erosion and sloughing on road cut and fill slopes and sheet erosion on other activity areas.	Implementation of project design features and BMPs will serve to minimize erosion in the specified areas (document 11-004).
Riparian Areas	
1. Allow no management practices in riparian areas that will cause detrimental changes in water temperature or chemical composition, blockages of water courses, or deposits of sediment that seriously and adversely affect water conditions and fish habitat.	Project activities will comply with design features, BMPs, and mitigation criteria to ensure compliance with Forest Plan Water Quality Criteria and relevant BMPs to protect riparian areas. No management activities are planned that would cause detrimental changes to streams due to BMP and design feature implementation (document 11-004).
2. Give preferential consideration to riparian-area-dependent resources in cases of unresolvable conflict (resources such as fish, certain wildlife, certain water-dependent vegetation, and water are totally dependent upon riparian areas). Actions within or affecting riparian areas will include protection and, where applicable, improvement of riparian-dependent resources.	BMP and design feature implementation would protect or improve riparian-dependent resources (document 11-004. The project should not have an impact on riparian areas.
3. Effects on wetlands and floodplains must be considered for all alternatives during the environmental analysis process.	The project should not have an impact on wetlands and floodplains. No activities are planned in wetlands or floodplains (document 11-004).
4. Delineate and evaluate riparian areas in project areas prior to implementing any project activity.	No activities are planned in wetlands or floodplains (document 11-004). RHCAs would be delineated during sale unit layout.
5. Manage riparian areas to maintain cover and security for riparian-dependent species with emphasis on maintaining and enhancing habitats for threatened and endangered species. Use "Guidelines for Evaluating and Managing Summer Elk Habitat in Northern Idaho" to evaluate the need for and to provide adequate hiding cover and security areas for big game. Biological evaluations, during site-	RHCAs would be retained on all streams and in landslide prone areas (document 11-004). Riparian habitat and species would be protected.

specific project analysis, shall identify needs and recommendations. *This text is no longer valid, see Amend #3 for replacement text*	
Air Quality	
1. Cooperate with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Meet the requirements of the SIP and State Smoke Management Plan.	The Nez Perce National Forest is a party to the Montana/ Idaho Airshed Group Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which establishes procedures to regulate the amount of smoke produced by prescribed fire. This MOU is intended to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of communications about, and coordination of, prescribed fire to avoid adverse effects to air quality (document 11-004).
Roads and Trails	
1. Develop an "Area Transportation Analysis" prior to entering drainages with land-disturbing activities.	A road by road analysis was conducted for the project area to determine the road actions and location of roads needed for the Green Horse Project (document 14-001).
6. Plan, design, and manage all access to meet land and resource management objectives, meet the State Water Quality Standards, and meet Best Management Practices (BMPs).	BMPs and design features would be used to meet water quality objectives (document 11-004).
7. Plan to implement post-project activities, including access prescriptions, within two field seasons of the last planned land-disturbing activity. Minimize the total time that roads will be open for construction and timber harvest activities.	Roads currently closed for access that are used to facilitate harvest would be closed upon completion of harvest and temporary road would be decommissioned after use.
9. Design all proposed road systems to mitigate at least 60 percent of the sediment predicted. Utilize proven mitigation procedures in the design and construction of roads to meet up to 90 percent of the sediment predicted, where needed to meet resource management objectives.	BMPS and design features would be implemented to reduce road-related sediment (document 11-004).
Protection	
1. Fire management direction in this Forest Plan shall guide the Fire Management Analysis and the resulting Fire Management Action Plan. The Action Plan will give specific fire	Proposed action would reduce the accumulation of hazardous fuels within the project area.

management direction. Fire management direction for wildfire and prescribed fire is shown for each management area in Chapter III of the Forest Plan. Control of wildfire is an option for all management areas. This is necessary because at some time, depending on location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk, all fires may have to be controlled. The prescribed fire planned ignition option is for those management areas where burning will be done to achieve management objectives such as browse rehabilitation, slash disposal, site preparation, etc. Appendix C of the Forest Plan contains more specific fire management direction and explains the Fire Management Analysis System.	A written burn plan to manage prescribed fires would be completed prior to management ignition or signing off as a prescribed natural fire, and natural ignition. All proposed treatment areas lie within Management Areas where wildfire management strategies include control, confine, and contain. Planned and unplanned ignitions when within prescription, would be allowed to burn to enhance resource values in all management areas. It does depend on forest plan for each management area.
2. Undertake hazard reduction treatments if activity-created fuels exceed 12 tons per acre of materials less than 3 inches in diameter. Base assessments on the "Slash Hazard Appraisal."	Activity fuel treatments are planned in all harvest units (document 11-004).
3. Minimize the impacts of the mountain pine beetle and other insect and disease infestations to the extent necessary to achieve the overall goals and objectives of this Forest Plan.	Proposed activities would shift to early seral species that are less susceptible to insect and disease.

B. Management Area Direction

Management Area direction for Management Areas in the table below may apply to this project.

Management Area	Management Intent
1	Provide the minimum management necessary to provide for resource protection and to ensure public safety. Additional road construction will be allowed to manage adjacent areas.
10	Manage to protect or enhance riparian-dependent resources.
12	Manage for timber production and other multiple uses on a sustained yield basis.
16	Manage to increase usable forage for elk and deer on potential winter range.
17	Manage for timber production and other multiple uses on a sustained yield basis while meeting visual quality objectives of retention or partial retention.
20	Manage for old-growth habitat for dependent species.
21	Manage grand fir-Pacific yew communities for moose winter range and other multiple uses.

MANAGEMENT AREA 1 (19,388 acres)

A. Description

Management Area 1 consists primarily of nonforest and low productivity forest lands that occur as small, dispersed parcels within the nonclassified portion of the Forest. Some of the areas are rock outcrops, scree, or areas of shallow soils along canyons and major drainages. Elevation and vegetation vary greatly from low elevation grasslands along the major river drainages to high elevation subalpine/ treeline vegetation. Landforms are also variable, ranging from flat, nonforested openings in the Forest to rock outcrops on steep slopes.

This management area contains inclusions of other management areas as shown below:

Management Area	Inclusion Acres
10	262
12	3,095
16	975
17	370
19	188
20	413
21	373

In addition to the 19,388 acres mapped for this management area, there are approximately 16,543 acres of this management emphasis which occur as inclusions in other management areas.

B. Goals

Provide the minimum management necessary to provide for resource protection.

The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 3,121 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 13,991 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 1,301 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

C. Standards

RESOURCE ELEMENT	STANDARDS	PROJECT CONSISTENCY
	The Forestwide management direction included in Chapter II of this Plan applies to this management area.	
TIMBER Timber Harvest	1. Lands are classified as "unsuitable" for timber production; schedule no timber harvest. 2. Harvesting may occur to meet other multiple use objectives such as research, public safety, or removal of volume lost through catastrophic mortality, or to control insect and disease epidemics that threaten adjacent "suitable" lands. Firewood removal may occur where access exists.	Some harvest is occurring for public safety, and for insect and disease epidemics that threaten adjacent suitable lands.
WATER	1. Meet established fishery/ water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.	Water quality objectives would be met in all but Island Creek which exceeds its objective due to the Wash Fire (2015). Roadside fuel treatments would not affect the water quality objective due to the limited number of acres treated. RHCA retention would maintain, or allow the improvement of, water quality objectives (document 11-004).
PROTECTION Insects and Disease Fire Management	1. Control insect and disease epidemics if necessary to protect other resource values or to prevent spread to adjacent, "suitable" lands. 2. Wildfire management strategies include control, contain, and confine. The strategy selected, and specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan. 3. Planned and unplanned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.	Ignitions are planned in this management area to burn and meet objectives described in the proposed action that includes enhancing resource values.
FACILITIES Roads Trails	1. Construction and reconstruction is permissible when roads are necessary to meet the multiple use objectives on adjacent lands. 2. Reconstruct and maintain to meet adjacent management area objectives, provide public safety, and reduce environmental damage.	No new system road construction is proposed. Reconstruction or maintenance would be used to meet area objectives.

MANAGEMENT AREA 10 (11,859 acres)

A. Description

Management Area 10 consists of lakes, lakeside lands, perennial streams, seasonally flowing streams supporting riparian vegetation, and adjoining lands that are dominated by riparian vegetation. The width of the components of this management area varies and is determined by the riparian vegetation and the valley bottom width. Riparian vegetation is vegetation requiring a high level of soil moisture. The area is often nearly flat and is subject to various degrees of flooding or saturation. As additional acres of riparian areas are identified and mapped during project planning, the acres in this management area will increase.

This area includes the floodplains of streams and the wetlands associated with springs, lakes, and ponds. The natural and beneficial values of riparian areas include groundwater recharge, moderation of flood peaks, maintenance of water quality, visual and recreational enjoyment, fish and wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and timber and forage production.

This management area contains inclusions of other management areas as shown below:

Management Area	Inclusion Acres
1	41
12	249
16	682
17	149
20	298
21	55

In addition to the 11,859 acres mapped for this management area, there are 10,214 acres of this management emphasis which occur as inclusions in other management areas.

B. Goals

Manage riparian areas to maintain and enhance their value for wildlife, fishery and aquatic habitat, and water quality. Manage timber, grazing, and recreation to give preferential consideration to riparian-dependent species on that portion of the management area "suitable" for timber management, grazing, or recreation.

The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 1,615 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 6,815 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 2,875 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

C. Standards

RESOURCE ELEMENT	STANDARDS	PROJECT CONSISTENCY

RESOURCE ELEMENT	STANDARDS	PROJECT CONSISTENCY
	The Forestwide management direction included in Chapter II of this Plan applies to this management area. Consider cumulative impacts of proposed activities on the entire riparian ecosystem.	
WILDLIFE AND FISH Habitat Management	1. Maintain sufficient streamside vegetative canopy to ensure acceptable water temperatures for fish and to provide cover. 2. Management activities shall not be permitted to adversely change the composition and productivity of key riparian vegetation. Riparian areas now degraded by management should be rehabilitated before any further nondependent resource use of the immediate area is permitted. 3. Schedule habitat improvements in all drainages presently below stated objectives. Improvements will include in-stream structures, channel changes, and riparian revegetation. Use in-stream improvements and barrier removal to enhance those drainages where habitat capacity is undisturbed. 4. Maintain sufficient streamside vegetative structure, composition, and diversity for travel corridors between old-growth stands.	No disturbance activities are planned in this MA.

RESOURCE ELEMENT	STANDARDS	PROJECT CONSISTENCY
TIMBER Timber Harvest	1. Lands are classified as "suitable" for timber management; schedule timber harvest. 2. Design timber harvest activities to protect or enhance riparian-dependent resources. Emphasize multi-layered stand conditions and a vegetative mosaic. 3. Locate timber harvest landings outside of riparian areas. 4. Require directional felling of trees away from stream courses. 5. Prohibit harvesting equipment that will result in significant ground disturbance. 6. Suspend logs completely when possible when crossing riparian areas. 7. Prohibit management activities that would change stream geomorphology by adversely altering streambanks, channel dimensions, or channel sediment.	This standard does not apply to the project because no harvest or burning activities are planned in this MA.
WATER	1. Meet established fishery/ water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.	This standard would be maintained through RHCA retention and cross drain additions to roads near streams (document 11-004).
FACILITIES Roads and Trails Trails Utility Corridors	1. Design mitigation measures to reduce sediment from roads constructed in riparian areas by at least 70 percent. 2. Minimize crossings in riparian areas. Cross streams at as near a right angle as practical. Construction parallel to streams (in riparian areas) should be avoided. Opportunities to remove roads and trails from riparian areas should be considered if they are producing significant impacts on riparian-dependent resources.	This standard would be met because no new system road construction is proposed, all temporary roads would have no stream crossings, and cross drain culverts would be added near streams where necessary to reduce potential sediment delivery to streams. No changes to trail or road access is proposed.

RESOURCE ELEMENT	STANDARDS	PROJECT CONSISTENCY
PROTECTION Insects and Disease	1. Apply integrated pest management to minimize losses and protect riparian area values.	
Fire Management	2. Wildfire management strategies are control, contain, and confine. The specifics on implementation shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan. 3. Planned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.	This standard would be met as no harvest would within the MA. Planned ignitions would be allowed to back into RHCAs which could reduce fuel loads and better protect riparian areas from wildfire.

MANAGEMENT AREA 12 (539,884 acres)

A. Description

Management Area 12 consists primarily of forested lands. Timber productivity classes 3, 4, 5, and 6 are represented as are a variety of commercially valuable, softwood tree species. A variety of physical and biological environments occur as determined by soil, slope, aspect, elevation (approximately 3,800-6,500 feet), and climatic factors. This management area occurs across the entire nonclassified portion of the Forest. Although this management area consists primarily of productive forest land, there are minor inclusions of nonforest and low productivity forest lands.

This management area contains inclusions of other management areas as shown below:

Management Area	Inclusion Acres
1	10,489
8	10
10	4,695
11	4
16	11,492
17	760
19	8,240
20	22,327
21	13,157

In addition to the 539,884 acres mapped for this management area, there are approximately 29,193 acres of this management emphasis which occur as inclusions in other management areas.

B. Goals

Manage for timber production and other multiple uses on a sustained yield basis. Develop equal distribution of age classes to optimize sustained timber production. Manage at levels and intensities consistent with the schedules described in this plan to provide for other multiple uses and resources. Manage for roaded natural recreation.

The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 109,444 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 310,544 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 114,225 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

C. Standards

RESOURCE ELEMENT	STANDARDS	PROJECT CONSISTENCY
	The Forestwide management direction included in Chapter II of this Plan applies to this management area.	

RESOURCE ELEMENT	STANDARDS	PROJECT CONSISTENCY
RECREATION Dispersed Recreation Visual Resources	1. Manage for roaded natural recreation. 2. Interim visual quality objectives are modification or maximum modification. Adopted VQOs will recognize sensitive (Sensitivity Level 1 and 2) viewpoints and travel routes. *This text reflects changes made by amend #4*	The project does not propose any changes to recreation management. Proposed management activities and existing recreation opportunities are consistent with the current Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classifications. All landscape-altering activities would meet adopted Forest Plan Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs). Duration of visual impacts should meet the guidelines outlined for each VQO in Agriculture Handbook No. 462-Chapter 2. The project would comply with Forest Plan forest-wide standards for visual resources in the Nez Perce National Forest Plan.
TIMBER Timber Harvest Reforestation Stand Improvement	1. Lands are classified as "suitable" for timber management; schedule timber harvest. Use primarily even-aged silvicultural systems. Final determination of the silvicultural system to be used will be based on an on-the-ground, site-specific analysis (see Appendix F). 2. Reforest to desired stocking levels within 5 years following final harvest. 3. Plant or thin natural regeneration to reach desired stocking levels by age 20.	Timber production would be optimized by harvesting using silvicultural techniques appropriate for each site. Stocking surveys will be completed to determine stocking levels. If stocking is not at desired level, the stand will be assessed to determine steps needed to achieve desired stocking.
WATER	1. Meet established fishery/ water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.	Water quality objectives would be met in all but Island Creek which exceeds its objective due to the Wash Fire (2015). Roadside fuel treatments would not affect the water quality objective due to the limited number of acres treated. RHCA retention would maintain, or allow the improvement of, water quality objectives in all prescription watersheds.
FACILITIES Roads	1. Construct and reconstruct primarily to achieve timber management objectives.	Road reconstruction is proposed to facilitate timber harvest and fuel reduction.
PROTECTION Fire Management	1. Wildfire management strategies are control, confine, and contain. Specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan. 2. Planned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.	Ignitions are planned in this management area to burn and meet objectives described in the proposed action that includes enhancing resource values.

MANAGEMENT AREA 16 (151,683 acres)

A. Description

Management Area 16 consists of those lands on the nonclassified portions of the Forest that provide winter habitat for deer and elk. These areas are primarily below 4,500 feet in elevation and have southern to western aspects. The vegetative types included are nonforest grasslands, seral brushfields, and timbered lands. Landtypes vary, but frequently this management area is found on slopes greater than 40 percent. This management area occurs across the entire nonclassified portion of the Forest.

This management area contains inclusions of other management areas as shown below:

Management Area	Inclusion Acres
1	2,439
8	38
9	343
10	2,706
12	6,786
17	2,608
19	2,121
20	4,506
21	1,172

In addition to the 151,683 acres mapped for this management area, there are approximately 19,756 acres of this management emphasis which occur as inclusions in other management areas.

B. Goals

Improve the quality of the winter range habitat for deer and elk through timber harvesting, prescribed burning, and other management practices.

The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 2,987 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 15,115 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 5,330 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

C. Standards

RESOURCE ELEMENT	STANDARDS	PROJECT CONSISTENCY
	The Forestwide management direction included in Chapter II of this Plan applies to this management area.	

RESOURCE ELEMENT	STANDARDS	PROJECT CONSISTENCY
WILDLIFE AND FISH Access Management	1. Restrict all roads except specifically-identified arterials and collectors during winter to reduce disturbance, harassment, and poaching of animals. Roads to be closed shall be identified in the Forest Travel Plan.	This standard does not apply to the project because no changes to access are proposed. Sixty-eight percent of the roads in the project area are closed year round to all vehicles.
TIMBER Timber Harvest Reforestation	1. Lands in Management Area 16 are classified as both "suitable" and "unsuitable" for timber management. The nonforest grasslands and seral brushfields are "unsuited" for timber management. The timber stands in productivity classes 3, 4, 5, and 6 are classified as "suitable" for timber management. 2. Schedule timber harvest on "suitable" lands. Design timber harvests to achieve desired combination of cover and forage. Salvage will be allowed for those areas not in the "suitable" land base. 3. Determine the silvicultural system to be used based on an on-the-ground, site-specific analysis (see Appendix F). 4. Design silvicultural prescriptions to provide for a prolonged period (10-20 years) of browse production. Site preparation practices will stimulate browse production for wildlife.	Any timber management activities are on land “suitable” for timber management. Harvest will be designed to achieve desired outcomes for cover and forage. Silvicultural system will be based on site-specific analysis. Silviculture prescriptions will be designed with the goal of providing prolonged browse production while achieving stocking rates in a timely manner.
WATER	1. Meet established fishery/ water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.	Water quality objectives would be met in all but Island Creek which exceeds its objective due to the Wash Fire (2015). Roadside fuel treatments would not affect the water quality objective in Island Creek due to the limited number of acres treated. RHCA retention would maintain, or allow the improvement of, water quality objectives in all watersheds (document 11-004).
FACILITIES Roads	1. Construction and reconstruction is permissible when roads are necessary to meet the multiple use objectives on adjacent lands.	Road reconstruction is proposed that will improve watershed condition, improve public access, and facilitate timber harvest and fuel reduction activities.

RESOURCE ELEMENT	STANDARDS	PROJECT CONSISTENCY
PROTECTION Fire Management	1. Wildfire management strategies include control, contain, and confine. The strategy selected, and specifics on implementation, shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan. 2. Planned and unplanned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.	Ignitions are planned in this management area to burn and meet objectives described in the proposed action that includes enhancing resource values.

MANAGEMENT AREA 20 (64,659 acres)

A. Description

Management Area 20 is equally distributed across the nonclassified portion of the Forest. It is made up of forested lands in timber productivity classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 and occurs on a variety of landtypes. Approximately half of the area has a timber condition class of overmature sawtimber (150 years or older). The remainder of the area is comprised of immature stands (40-80 years) that will provide for replacement old-growth habitat. These lands provide critical habitat for wildlife species dependent on old-growth forest conditions such as the pileated woodpecker, the pine marten, and the fisher.

This management area contains inclusions of other management areas as shown below:

Management Area	Inclusion Acres
1	592
10	1,064
11	33
12	7,756
16	2,832
17	1,273
19	505
21	1,595

In addition to the 64,659 acres mapped for this management area there are approximately 35,570 acres of this management emphasis which occur as inclusions in other management areas.

B. Goals

Provide "suitable" habitat (existing and replacement) for old-growth-dependent wildlife species.

The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 10,562 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 38,696 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 12,569 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

C. Standards

RESOURCE ELEMENT	STANDARDS	PROJECT CONSISTENCY
	The Forestwide management direction included in Chapter II of this Plan applies to this management area.	

RESOURCE ELEMENT	STANDARDS	PROJECT CONSISTENCY
TIMBER Timber Harvest Reforestation Timber Stand Improvement	1. Lands are classified as "suitable" for timber management. 2. Schedule no timber harvest in existing old-growth stands until decade 10. Schedule no timber harvest in replacement stands until decade 16. 3. Select, locate, and administer old-growth areas to protect them from firewood cutting. 4. Reforest to desired stocking level within 5 years of final harvest. 5. Exclude precommercial thinning. 6. Salvage of dead and dying timber is permitted in the Scott Fire Salvage Sale before decade 10. *this text added by amend #17* *7.* Exception: Timber harvest is permitted in all or parts of the designated old-growth habitat (MA-20) located within the Berg Timber sale area during the life of the timber sale to improve and maintain the long term sustainability of this ponderosa pine community. *this text added by amend #22* 8. Allows timber harvest in unit F of Middle Fk Timber Sale. *See amend #25 for details*	No harvest is proposed within MA 20 (see proposed action in the EA).
WATER	1. Meet established fishery/ water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.	No harvest is proposed within MA 20; all fish/ water quality objectives for the Green Horse project will be met. See aquatics and hydrology analysis for more details.
FACILITIES Roads	1. Construct and reconstruct for the purpose of managing adjacent lands. 2. Restrict or close all secondary collector and local roads after management activities cease in adjacent areas.	Road reconstruction is proposed that will improve watershed condition, improve public access, and facilitate timber harvest and fuel reduction activities. After completion of proposed activities, road access will return to pre-activity status.
PROTECTION Fire Management	1. Wildfire management strategies are control, confine, and contain. Specifics on implementation shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan. 2. Planned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values.	No activities are proposed within MA 20, this includes no prescribed burning (see proposed action in the EA).

MANAGEMENT AREA 21 (45,140 acres)

A. Description

Management Area 21 consists of timber stands in timber productivity classes 3 and 4 that are old-growth, grand fir-Pacific yew vegetative communities that have been identified as moose winter range. These stands are generally located between the elevations of 4,000 to 6,000 feet on a variety of landtypes. These areas occur across the entire nonclassified portion of the Forest. These areas are key winter habitat for moose.

This management area contains inclusions of other management areas as shown below:

Management Area	Inclusion Acres
1	349
10	321
12	6,488
16	412
17	1,066
19	9
20	1,477

In addition to the 45,140 acres mapped for this management area there are approximately 17,780 acres of this management emphasis which occur as inclusions in other management areas.

B. Goals

Manage the grand fir-Pacific yew plant communities to provide for a continuing presence of Pacific yew "suitable" for moose winter habitat.

The goal for summer elk habitat in this management area is to manage 12,785 acres to achieve at least 75 percent of habitat potential; 31,425 acres to achieve at least 50 percent of habitat potential; and 518 acres to achieve at least 25 percent of habitat potential. Specific methods of how to achieve this will be determined on a site-specific basis during project planning (see Appendix B).

C. Standards

RESOURCE ELEMENT	STANDARDS	PROJECT CONSISTENCY
	The Forestwide management direction included in Chapter II of this Plan applies to this management area.	

RESOURCE ELEMENT	STANDARDS	PROJECT CONSISTENCY
TIMBER Timber Harvest	1. Lands are classified as both "suitable" and "unsuitable" for timber management. The flat grounds, less than 35 percent slope, are "suitable" for timber management. The steep lands, greater than 35 percent slope, are "unsuitable" for timber management. 2. Schedule timber harvest only on the "suitable" lands, less than 35 percent slope, that do not require broadcast slash burning. 3. For those lands that are scheduled for harvest, harvest a maximum of 5 percent of Pacific yew stand per decade on a 210-year rotation. 4. Maintain at least 50 percent of the live Pacific yew components scattered throughout the unit in patches 1/ 4 to 1/ 2 acre in size. 5. The preferred harvest type includes patch clearcuts, individual tree selection, group selection, or shelterwood. Patch clearcuts should be no larger than 20 acres in size (5-10 acres preferred). 6. Determine the silvicultural system to be used based on an on-the-ground, site-specific analysis. 7. Maintain leave-strips between yew stands sufficient to provide travel corridors for moose. 8. Reforest to desired stocking levels either through planting or through natural regeneration to achieve 30 percent crown closure over 20 years for conifers, and 30 percent crown closure over 20-30 years for Pacific yew. 9. Achieve the appropriate canopy cover objective through stocking control. Canopy cover objectives, 90 years after treatment, are: Percent Canopy Cover Overstory Pacific Yew Taxus brevifolia 42 60 Asarum caudatum h.t. Taxus brevifolia 34 53 Clintonia uniflora h.t.	Harvest in MA 21 will only occur on "suitable" ground for timber management (slopes less than 35%) (document 11-004). No Pacific yew-dominated stands are being proposed for harvest. A minimum of 50% of the live Pacific yew component of a stand will be left scattered in the unit in leave clumps ¼ to ½ acre in size. Silviculture systems used will be site-specific, and will take into consideration preferred system. Retention will include leave strips between yew stands. Silviculture prescriptions will be designed to address desired reforestation conditions through species composition and stocking levels, taking site-specific information into consideration. See proposed action in the EA.

RESOURCE ELEMENT	STANDARDS	PROJECT CONSISTENCY
WATER	1. Meet established fishery/ water quality objectives for all prescription watersheds as shown in Appendix A.	Water quality objectives would be met within this MA. RHCA retention would maintain, or allow the improvement of, water quality objectives (document 11-004).
PROTECTION Fire Management	1. Wildfire management strategies are control, confine, and contain. Specifics on implementation shall depend upon location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk. Decision criteria shall be specified in the Fire Management Action Plan. 2. Planned ignitions, when within prescription, will be allowed to burn to enhance resource values. Generally, broadcast burning will not be prescribed. Do not slash Pacific yew except to provide room to machine pile. Slash piles should not be placed within patches of yew.	Planned ignitions in MA 21 will only occur on "suitable" ground for timber management (slopes less than 35%). Silviculture prescriptions will be designed and utilized in Prescribe Fire Burn Plan. Standards for slashing and piling within Pacific Yew will be followed.